

## CapX2020 Environmental Concerns

Section B32 of the proposed CapX power line runs along the southern border of our property. The entire area of which consists of woods and a fencerow. The fencerow is a stand of 100-year-old oak trees. These trees, along with a wide swatch of grass underneath, have been left undisturbed for years and for good reason. It provides habitat for pheasants, deer, turkeys and birds. Bees nest in multiple trees and migrating Monarch butterflies use it to rest during migration. Sitting high on a ridge, the fencerow provides a much-needed windbreak to prevent land erosion.

We purchased this land in 1996. Shortly after purchase we enrolled the land in the Minnesota Land Stewardship program. Our desire to protect this land was our intent, and now more than ever remains our passion. In our opinion, optional routes along roads and exiting easements should be used for the proposed power line.

Consider the current environmental conditions. Bee's; a vital link in our existence are on the decline. Pheasants find fewer places to inhabit due to fewer fencerows and a decline in CRP acres. Think about all the efforts and money spent by the ASCS to limit land erosion. Groups like Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited and the Sierra club, donate large amounts of time and dollars to protect and provide habitat. Who hasn't been exposed to today's hottest buzzwords, "Going Green" and "environmentally friendly"?

To ignore such efforts and build a power line forever destroying vital habitat would be a shame. To hold public environmental meetings only to proceed without total regard to public interest would be hypocrisy. To disrupt the ecosystem when other options are available would demonstrate profound irresponsibility.

"To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent thinking".  
Aldo Leopold.

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### I-021-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

### I-021-002

Your comment has been noted. Conservation easements and other existing types of property arrangements are evaluated by the applicant during the routing and siting phase of the project.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement is will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.